

scholars and leaders, to the many students with bright futures ahead, Fisk has always been committed to excellence and remained at the forefront of making the world a better place. I join my fellow Tennesseans in honoring Fisk University for the indelible mark it has left over the past 150 years, and for what it has in store in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, International Plasma Awareness Week will occur October 9 to 15, 2016. Around the world, there will be observances to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are more than 450 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives, join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR. BRUCE HARTER

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Dr. Bruce Harter as West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) Superintendent.

As the second longest serving superintendent in the history of WCCUSD, Dr. Harter has played a large role in the district both in and out of the classroom. During his

tenure, WCCUSD experienced significant increases in the success of English Language Learners, increases in graduation rates, decreases in drop-out rates, and a significant increase in the proportion of graduates attending postsecondary education.

As a testament to his emphasis on addressing the whole child, WCCUSD has made great strides during his service to incorporate additional student services to help students learn and grow. To that point, WCCUSD is now the only school district in the Bay Area to have health centers in every high school, providing greater physical and emotional safety, and implementing social emotion programs that substantially reduced disciplinary actions.

Dr. Harter's commitment to promoting the success and well-being of West Contra Costa's students is deeply appreciated by the community that he serves, and he should be proud of the clear and steady improvement in overall student achievement during his service.

I thank Dr. Harter for his service and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT CAPOZUCCA, ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUZERNE COUNTY'S 2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Capozucca, who will be honored by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County as Person of the Year during the organization's 39th Annual Columbus Day Banquet on October 9, 2016.

Albert was born October 9, 1936 in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania to Raymond and Emma Capozucca. After the death of his father, Albert enrolled in the Hershey Industrial School for Orphan Boys, now known as Milton Hershey School. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in vocational plumbing and heating. Albert was drafted into the army and served from November 1959 to February 1962. When that service concluded, he returned to the plumbing business. He and his brother, Ray Capozucca, formed Capozucca Bros. Plumbing and Heating. They later expanded their business to add Capozucca Brothers Oil Company. Albert worked with his brother until they both retired in the early 2000s.

Albert remains active in his community and is involved in many organizations. He is a member of the St. Joseph Marelli Parish in Pittston. He's served with Pittston Township Volunteer Fire Department for a whopping 59 years. He is the current president of Pittston Township Lions club and serves as the club's representative for the Upper Valley Eye Bank Association. He helped establish the Pittston Township Little League, where he served on the board of directors for many years. He also served on the Pittston Township Sewer Authority Committee. Finally, Albert is a former member of the Pittston Knights of Columbus and is a member of both the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and the Italian Citizens Enjoyment Club.

It is an honor to recognize Albert for being named Italian American Association of

Luzerne County's Person of the Year. I am deeply grateful for his military service and his many contributions to his community. I wish Albert and the Italian American Association all the best.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE COTTON FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE SEMINOLE COUNTY RE- GIONAL CHAMBER OF COM- MERCE AND THE SEMINOLE COUNTY COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay recognition to a great community leader who has helped the Seminole County business community through her volunteer service and her role at the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce: Mrs. Debbie Cotton.

Debbie is leaving the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer after more than two decades as an employee and volunteer at the chamber. Her work over the years has helped Seminole County become one of Florida's best places for business with multiple major companies relocating to the county and thousands of businesses prospering in Seminole County.

Debbie Cotton started as a volunteer with the Chamber in 1995 and then joined the Chamber in 1998 as the receptionist. Over the years, she served in a wide variety of roles, serving as the communications and events director, business development director, interim president, chief operating officer and vice president.

In addition, she served as a board member on the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools, participated in Leadership Seminole Class 2002 and was named Ambassador of the Year by the Chamber in 1996. She was named the COO of the Year by the Orlando Business Journal in 2014.

Over the years, Debbie Cotton has worked with thousands of businesses. She has helped them grow and prosper and thrive in Seminole County. Our business community is better because of Debbie Cotton.

Debbie Cotton will be leaving Seminole County on October 7 to become the President of the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. I know that I am joined by my colleagues from Central Florida in thanking her for her service and wishing her well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate Debbie Cotton on her many accomplishments in Seminole County and all of Central Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I joined U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other U.S. leaders in Cartagena, Colombia, for the formal signing of the peace agreement between the Colombian